

A Checklist to Determine if Consensus Building is Appropriate

Necessary Conditions for a Consensus Building Process	Assessment and Comments
Is there a Constituency for Change?	
Do people have a common concern over a reasonably well-defined issue?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Are people frustrated with the status quo? Do they truly want something to change?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Do people believe that the issue is timely and compelling?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Are people uncertain about their best alternative to a negotiated agreement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Do people believe that the issues are negotiable? That is, there are no strongly felt issues involving a fundamental principle, right, value, or precedent.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Do people desire more control over the outcome?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Do people want to avoid an adversarial situation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Are people concerned about the costs of a prolonged dispute?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Do people desire a sense of closure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe

Is there Sufficient Stakeholder Capacity?	
Are stakeholder groups clearly organized – do they have clear lines of communication and decision making?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Can legitimate, credible representatives be identified, and are they willing to participate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Are stakeholders willing to articulate their interests and seek solutions that accommodate the interests of other stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Are public officials and decision makers committed to process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Are there sufficient resources to support the process (time, money, information, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
Final Analysis	
Do people believe that they are likely to get more out of a consensus building process than they are likely to get out of their alternatives for addressing the issue(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe